

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-05 IO-10 OMB-01

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /069 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2660

AMEMBASSY DAKAR NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSH KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU PROIRITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PONROVIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LOME PROIRITY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU PRIORITY

S E C R E T LAGOS 0068

DAKAR FOR SCHAUFELE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN VIEWS ON OAU SUMMIT MEETING ON ANGOLA

1. MEA PERSEC SANUSI AND I HAD LENGTHY DISCUSSION THIS

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MORNING ON CURRENT STATE OF ANGOLAN PLAY IN ANTICIPATION OF

ADDIS SUMMIT.

2. IN RESPONSE TO MY PRESENTATION OF US ANALYSIS AND POLICY, SANUSI REITERATED FMG CONCERN OVER ROLE THAT SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT WOULD PLAY IN UPCOMING OAU DISCUSSIONS. SOUTH AFRICA'S INVOLVEMENT HAD BEEN "AN INCREDIBLE BLUNDER." OVERNIGHT IT HAD FORCED A RADICAL CHANGE ON AFRICAN ATTITUDES ON THE ANGOLAN PROBLEM AND ON AFRICAN ABILITY TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT SOVIET/CUBAN INTERFERENCE. DESPITE FMG DISAPPOINTMENT WITH US INABILITY TO RESPOND MORE EFFECTIVELY TO DATE, THE FMG CONTINUED TO REGARD US INFLUENCE ON SOUTH AFRICA AS A POTENTIALLY DETERMINATIVE FACTOR IN PRODUCING CONDITIONS THAT MIGHT LEAD TO A CEASE-FIRE AND NEGOTIATIONS.

3. THE FMG BELIEVED IT WAS URGENTLY NECESSARY THAT SOUTH AFRICA STATE ITS INTENTIONS NOW, BEFORE THE OAU MEETING. THE ONLY THING THAT WOULD REALLY IMPRESS THE OAU, HOWEVER, WOULD BE ACTUAL PROOF OF SOUTH AFRICAN WILLINGNESS TO WITHDRAW.

4. FMG DOES NOT VIEW SOUTH AFRICAN ROLE IN SAME LIGHT AS SOVIET, CUBAN, OR ZAIROIS. SOUTH AFRICANS WERE NOT INVITED INTO ANGOLA. SAVIMBI AND HOLDEN DENY THEY REQUESTED SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION. BY CONTRAST, ZAIROIS TROOPS (WHETHER ORIGINALLY FROM ANGOLA OR NOT) WERE ASKED FOR BY HOLDEN, AND MPLA ASKED FOR THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS. THIS DIFFERENCE WILL FEATURE PROMINENTLY IN OAU DISCUSSIONS. A SOUTH AFRICAN PROMISE TO WITHDRAW IF OTHERS DO THE SAME IS NOT EXPECTED TO DRAW MUCH WATER.

5. SANUSI WOULD NOT BE DRAWN OUT ON RESULTS FMG ANTICIPATED FROM OAU MEETING, ON WHETHER OR NOT THE THREE FACTIONS WOULD ATTEND OR ON WHETHER NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE WOULD BE THERE. HE REPEATED FMG BELIEF THAT OAU SHOULD NOT DISCUSS ANGOLAN FUTURE WITHOUT ALL THREE GROUPS PARTICIPATING. AS FOR MURTALA'S ATTENDANCE, HE SAID GARBA WOULD MAKE THAT DECISION FROM ADDIS.

6. COMMENT: THERE MAY BE LOGIC IN FMG ARGUMENT DIFFERENTIATING SOUTH AFRICAN ROLE FROM THAT OF OTHERS. BUT IF ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF FMG POLICY IS A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY, AS PUBLICLY CLAIMED, WHAT DIFFERENCE SHOULD IT MAKE WHO
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WITHDRAWS FIRST PROVIDED THEY ALL GET OUT?
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, INTERVENTION, SUMMIT MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LAGOS00068
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760002-0127
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760188/aaaadaax.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NIGERIAN VIEWS ON OAU SUMMIT MEETING ON ANGOLA
TAGS: PFOR, AO, NI, SF, OAU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006